

Farm Report

COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. DISCUSS THE DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF WHEAT.
2. COMPARE THIS YEAR'S MEAT PRODUCTION WITH THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR AGO.
3. REVIEW NORTH CAROLINA PRICES RECEIVED.
4. WHAT IS THE PRESENT TREND IN POULTRY PRODUCTION?
5. DID FEED PRICES INCREASE OR DECREASE IN SEPTEMBER?
6. COMPARE THE CONSUMPTION OF CIGARETTES DURING 1950 WITH OTHER YEARS.
7. DISCUSS AUGUST HATCHERY PRODUCTION.
8. DID PRICES PAID BY FARMERS INCREASE OR DECREASE DURING SEPTEMBER?
9. WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE NATION'S CORN ACREAGE IS PLANTED WITH HYBRID SEED?

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OCT 11 1950
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

No. 70

RALEIGH, N. C.

OCTOBER 5, 1950

AGRICULTURAL PRICES AND OTHER CURRENT ITEMS

AUGUST HATCHERY PRODUCTION HIGHEST OF RECORD

The output of chicks by commercial hatcheries in North Carolina during August was the largest of record for the month. The number hatched totalled 3,292,000 -- 57 percent above the number produced in August last year and 161 percent larger than the 1944-48 average.

Compared with the previous month, August hatchery output showed a decline of only 77,000 chicks. This was much less than the usual drop in production at this season of the year.

Demand for broiler chicks in the non-commercial (as well as in the commercial broiler areas) was very strong. Favorable broiler prices since the beginning of the Korean war, coupled with continued good demand for the increased broiler output is largely responsible for farmer's increased interest in the poultry industry.

During the first eight months of 1950, commercial hatcheries in the state produced 39,968,000 chicks -- 12 percent above last year's output.

MEAT PRODUCTION INCREASES

Commercial slaughter of cattle and hogs in North Carolina during August showed an increase over the same month a year ago both in numbers and liveweight slaughtered. This includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter but excludes farm slaughter. The number of calves slaughtered during the month was 12 percent below that of August 1949, but the liveweight of calves slaughtered exceeded the previous year's total by more than 5 percent. Sheep slaughtered continued its downward trend, and only 300 sheep and lambs reached the floors of commercial slaughter houses during the month.

A total of 44,600 head of all species of animals, weighing 14,788,000 pounds were slaughtered by commercial firms during August. This was an increase of 10 percent in numbers of animals and 16 percent in total liveweight over production during August of last year.

Comparing the first eight months

(Continued on Page 4)

BROILER PLACEMENTS HIGHER

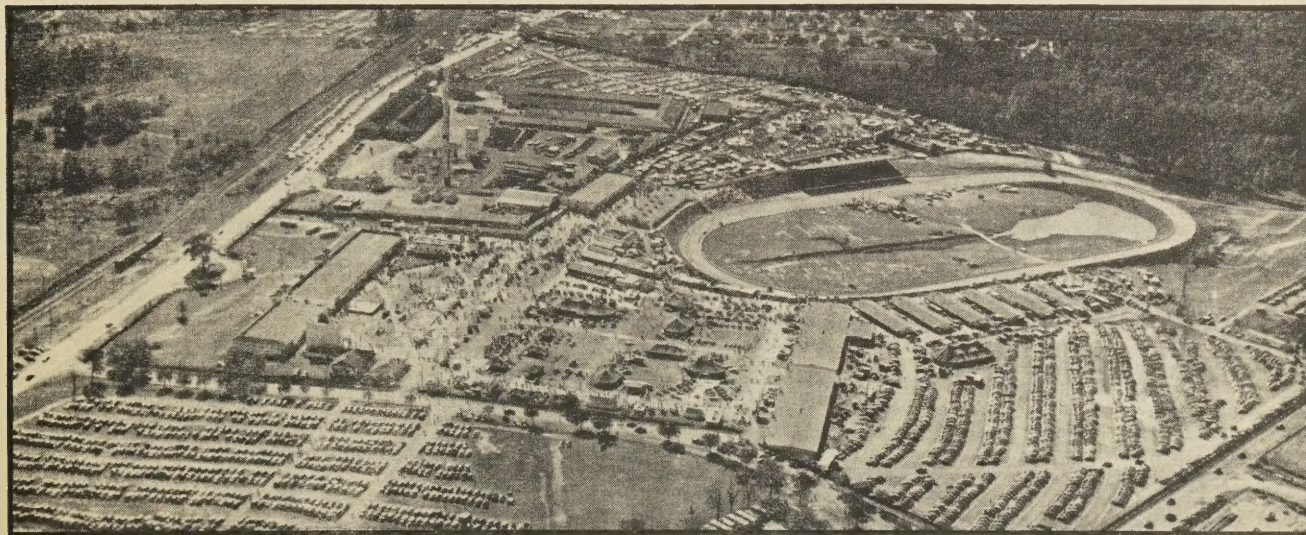
During September, a total of 1,806,900 chicks were placed with producers in the Chatham-Wilkes Commercial broiler areas. Placements during the month exceeded those made during September of last year by 72 percent and set a new September record for the number of chicks placed in the two areas.

The number of eggs set during the month by commercial hatcheries serving the Chatham-Wilkes areas totalled 1,914,900 eggs -- almost 74,000 eggs more than were set during August and 25 percent above September settings a year ago.

Hatchings totalled 1,362,802 chicks during the month, and compared with 1,359,000 chicks hatched during August and 882,000 during September 1949.

The demand for broilers has been strong since the beginning of the Korean war. With the stronger demand, prices for finished broilers have become more favorable. As a result, operations in the Chatham-Wilkes areas have not declined as normally expected during this season.

AIR VIEW OF STATE FAIR GROUNDS NEAR RALEIGH



PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS SEPTEMBER 15, 1950

WITH COMPARISONS

COMMODITY	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA		U. S.
		AUGUST 15	SEPTEMBER 15	SEPTEMBER 15
		1950	1950	1950
- DOLLARS -				
CORN.....	BU.	1.66	1.70	1.44
WHEAT.....	BU.	2.15	2.15	1.94
OATS.....	BU.	.85	.92	.728
BARLEY.....	BU.	1.20	1.42	1.14
RYE.....	BU.	2.08	2.32	1.29
SOYBEANS.....	BU.	2.20	2.13	2.26
COWPEAS.....	BU.	4.50	4.40	3.57
PEANUTS.....	LB.	.123	.118	.109
TOBACCO				
TYPE 11-37.....	LB.	.56	.558	.554
COTTON.....	LB.	.355	.40	.40
COTTONSEED.....	TON	54.00	73.00	78.80
WOOL.....	LB.	.51	.51	.622
HOGS.....	CWT.	21.40	21.40	21.10
BEEF CATTLE.....	CWT.	20.90	20.60	24.70
VEAL CALVES.....	CWT.	26.70	26.60	28.00
SHEEP.....	CWT.	10.80	11.20	11.70
LAMBS.....	CWT.	24.00	24.70	25.60
MILK COWS.....	HEAD	142.00	152.00	209.00
CHICKENS.....	LB.	.276	.276	.245
EGGS.....	DOZ.	.466	.494	.404
MILK, WHLSE.....	CWT.	4.60	4.75 <u>a</u>	3.94
RETAIL.....	QT.	.200	.202	.187
BUTTER.....	LB.	.55	.55	.573
BUTTERFAT.....	LB.	.52	.52	.609
HAY, ALL BALED.....	TON	28.50	27.50	20.30
POTATOES.....	BU.	1.55	1.55	1.05
SWEET POTATOES.....	BU.	2.55	2.20	1.92
APPLES COMMERCIAL.....	BU.	1.80	1.70	2.38
LESPEDEZA SEED.....	CWT.	9.50	9.60	7.81
KOREAN.....	CWT.	7.40	7.50	.
KOBE.....	CWT.	11.30	11.40	.
COM. & TENN. 76.....	CWT.	18.30	18.30	.
SERICEA.....	CWT.	19.50	19.50	.

a/ Preliminary

HIGHER COTTON AND TOBACCO PRICES
RAISE N. C. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX 64 POINTS

Primarily as a result of higher prices for cotton and tobacco, the "All Farm Products" index of prices received by farmers at local markets increased 64 points during the month ended September 15. The current "All Farm Products" index at 334 compares with 270 in August, 280 on September 15, 1949 and 289 on September 15, 1948 (See table at right).

The grains commodity index increased 5 points as the result of higher prices for corn, oats, barley and rye. Wheat at \$2.15 per bushel remained the same as August.

The cotton and cottonseed index increased 15 percent during the month ended September 15. Cotton increased 4.5 cents per pound and cottonseed increased \$19.00 per ton.

The index of tobacco prices stood at 436 percent of the 1909-14 base period price. The comparable index on September 15, 1949 was 382.

The meat animals index decreased 3 points due to slightly lower prices for beef cattle and veal calves. Hog prices remained the same and sheep and lamb prices increased slightly.

Seasonally higher egg prices were responsible for the increase of 10 points in the poultry index. Chicken prices were unchanged from August 15.

The dairy products index increased 2 points due to a slight increase in wholesale and retail milk prices.

The miscellaneous products index decreased 15 points due to lower prices for peanuts, soybeans, cowpeas, sweet-potatoes and commercial apples.

The increase of 64 points in the N. C. prices received index compared with a 5 point increase in the U. S. prices received index. The ratio of prices received by N. C. farmers to prices paid by U. S. farmers increased from 105 as of August 15 to 129 as of September. As pointed out above, increase in prices received for both cotton and tobacco were responsible for the increase in the N. C. prices received index.

COMPARISON OF U. S. PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS
AND PARITY PRICES

COMMODITY	PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS		PARITY OR COMPARABLE PRICES		AVERAGE PRICES AS PERCENTAGE OF PARITY	
	AUG. 15 1950	SEPT. 15 1950	AUG. 15 1950	SEPT. 15 1950	AUG. 15 1950	SEPT. 15 1950
- DOLLARS -						
COTTON, LB.....	.370	.40	.313	.315	118	127
WHEAT, BU.....	1.97	1.94	2.23	2.25	88	86
CORN, BU.....	1.44	1.44	1.62	1.63	89	88
OATS, BU.....	.706	.728	.960	.96a	74	76
BARLEY, BU.....	1.12	1.14	1.48a	1.49a	76	77
RYE, BU.....	1.25	1.29	1.72a	1.74a	73	74
BEEF CATTLE, CWT.	24.10	24.70	17.50	17.60	138	140
HOGS, CWT.....	21.60	21.10	19.40	19.50	111	108
LAMBS, CWT.....	24.90	25.60	19.30	19.40	129	132
CHICKENS, LB.....	.254	.245	.294	.295	86	83
EGGS DOZ.....	.38	.404	.515a	.519a	72a	70a
MILK, WHLSE, CWT.	3.75c	3.94b	4.46	4.48	85a	85a

a/ Percentage of seasonally adjusted prices to parity prices.

b/ Preliminary

c/ Revised

a/ Transitional parity, 95 percent of parity prices computed under formula in use prior to January 1, 1950.

U. S. PARITY RATIO UP 2 PERCENT

Across the Nation record high prices for cotton and sharply higher prices for cottonseed and citrus, together with smaller increases for many other farm products, raised the Index of Prices Received by Farmers 5 points, or 2 percent, to 272 percent of the 1910-14 average. Prices of grain sorghums, soybeans, flaxseed, most vegetables, chickens, and hogs were off from a month earlier.

At the same time higher prices for building materials--notably lumber--feeder livestock, clothing, and auto supplies were mainly responsible for raising the Index of Prices Paid by Farmers, including Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates to 259 percent of the 1910-14 base, 1 point above last month, and only 3 points below the all-time high of 262 set in the summer of 1944.

As a result, the Parity Ratio (ratio of the Index of Prices Received by Farmers to the Index of Prices Paid by Farmers, including Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates) rose from 103 to 105, the highest since October 1948.

During July, our factories continued to produce at near the record breaking level of June, even though numerous plants were shut down for vacations.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS
(N. C. PRICES RECEIVED 1909-14 = 100 PERCENT)

COMMODITY	AUG. 15 1950	SEPT. 15 1950	SEPT. 15 1949	SEPT. 15 1948	SEPT. 15 1947
NORTH CAROLINA INDEX NUMBERS					
ALL FARM PRODUCTS..	270	334	280	289	280
COTTON & COTTONSEED	274	315	231	254	258
GRAINS.....	189	194	170	199	242
MEAT ANIMALS.....	402	399	348	414	371
POULTRY.....	240	250	285	290	295
DAIRY PRODUCTS.....	222	224	222	248	226
TOBACCO.....	508	436	382	365	330
MISCELLANEOUS.....	244	229	219	228	235
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID..	105	129	116	116	118
UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS					
PRICES RECEIVED....	267	272	249	290	286
PRICES PAID.....	258	259	242	250	238
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID..	103	105	103	116	120

a/ Ratio of N. C. prices received to U. S. prices paid.

U.S. CIGARETTE CONSUMPTION HIGHEST OF RECORD

United States cigarette consumption in the year ending June 30, 1950, totaled 355 billion--3 billion larger than in 1948-49 and a new record. Total manufacture of 333 billion was about 7 billion less than in 1948-49 mostly because of the smaller output for export.

Large manufacturers advanced cigarette prices in late July, and it is estimated that cigarettes will probably cost United States consumers around 125 million dollars more per year at the retail level.

Cigar consumption during 1949-50 at 5½ billion was 3½ percent lower than in each of the 2 previous years. Some improvement in consumer demand for cigars is looked for in the latter half of 1950.

Smoking tobacco output in 1949-50 ran a little ahead of 1948-49 but chewing tobacco was about 5 percent smaller. Snuff consumption declined early in 1950 but for the fiscal year as a whole, was about 1 percent more than in 1948-49.

A rise in employment in occupations in which smoking is prohibited would tend to increase the use of chewing tobacco and snuff as was the case during World War II.

During the year ending June 30, 1950, United States exports of unmanufactured tobacco totaled 481 million pounds (declared weight) valued at nearly 236 million dollars.

Volume was up 7 percent over 1948-49 and 11 percent above the 1935-39 average. The United Kingdom and Germany were the 2 top ranking foreign destinations, but sizable quantities of United States leaf went to many other countries in western Europe, Africa, and the Pacific area.

The Economic Cooperation Administration has financed substantial amounts of the tobacco procured by western European countries in the past 2 1/3 years, and such financing will continue to be an important factor in the year ahead.

LIKE HYBRIDS BETTER THAN EVER

The Nation's corn growers apparently like hybrids better than ever, in spite of the fact that only 77.1 percent of the total acreage is in hybrids this year, compared with 77.6 percent last year.

This slight decline in the share of the total corn acreage planted to hybrids is of interest only because it is the first on record. In 1933, a little more than 1 acre in 1,000 was in hybrids. Last year and this year, hybrids were planted on more than 3 acres out of every 4.

Here's what happened: Colorado is the only State where there was much reduction in the share of the corn acreage planted to hybrids. In Nebraska and Mississippi, there was a very slight decrease -- but in all the other States it held steady or increased.

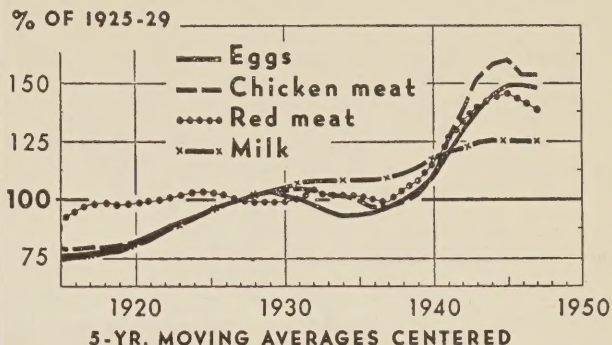
In North Carolina 34.5 percent of the total corn acreage was planted with hybrid seed this year - 84,000 acres above the 1949 hybrid acreage.

FEED PRICES SLIGHTLY LOWER

During the month ended September 15, prices paid by North Carolina farmers for high grade protein and grain by-products feeds declined slightly. For most feeds, prices were 5 to 10 cents per hundred pounds lower than they had been a month earlier. All feed prices were still above the June 15 level however.

U. S. feed prices followed rather closely the changes in prices paid by North Carolina farmers.

U. S. PRODUCTION OF EGGS, CHICKEN MEAT, RED MEAT, AND MILK



POULTRYMEN STEP UP OUTPUT

Production of chickens and eggs in the United States has expanded remarkably in the last 20 years. The increase has been even greater than for the other livestock products, despite the fact that poultry and egg prices have increased considerably less than prices for meat animals and dairy products.

A study of the competitive position of chicken and eggs in the United States shows that from 1925-29 to 1945-49, production of eggs rose 49 percent and chicken 51 percent. The combined gain for eggs and poultry was about 50 percent, about a tenth more than for other livestock products.

Prices of all livestock products were considerably higher in 1945-49 than in the earlier period. But egg prices were up 10 percent less and chicken prices 20 percent less than other livestock products. This year, prices of eggs and chickens are even lower compared with dairy and meat animal products.

The expansion in total livestock production has been partly due to improved production practices and larger supplies of feed and other resources.

During the same time, demand for these products has been increasing. The growth in our population increased the number of consumers by 23 million from 1925-29 to 1945-49. And consumers were willing to buy larger quantities, even though prices were higher.

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS SEPTEMBER 15, 1950 WITH COMPARISONS

FEED PER HUNDREDWEIGHT	NORTH CAROLINA		UNITED STATES	
	AUG. 15 1950	SEPT. 15 1950	AUG. 15 1950	SEPT. 15 1950
- DOLLARS -				
MIXED DAIRY FEED				
ALL KINDS.....	3.90	3.90	3.82	3.74
16% PROTEIN.....	3.65	3.70	3.69	3.64
18% PROTEIN.....	3.85	3.80	3.82	3.75
20% PROTEIN.....	4.10	4.05	3.95	3.82
HIGH PROTEIN FEEDS				
COTTONSEED MEAL...	3.95	3.95	4.48	4.35
LINSEED MEAL.....	-	-	4.51	4.34
SOYBEAN MEAL.....	4.95	4.60	5.01	4.44
TANKAGE MEAT SCRAP	6.70	6.60	6.98	6.75
GRAIN BY-PRODUCTS..				
BRAN.....	3.65	3.55	3.19	3.06
MIDDINGS.....	3.85	3.75	3.48	3.28
CORN MEAL.....	4.50	4.65	3.66	3.67
CORN GLUTEN.....	-	-	3.50	3.34
POULTRY FEED				
LAYING MASH.....	5.10	5.00	4.74	4.60
SCRATCH GRAIN.....	4.50	4.45	4.06	4.03

FARM REPORT

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FARM REPORT

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MEAT PRODUCTION (Continued)

of this year with the corresponding period a year ago, the number of head slaughtered was up 5.5 percent for cattle while slaughter of calves, sheep and lambs was down 26 and 16 percent respectively. However, hog slaughter was up 14 percent.

Meat production in commercial plants in the United States during August 1950 totaled 1,612 million pounds. This was an increase of 7 percent from the 1,504 million pounds produced in July and only a slight increase from the 1,610 million pounds produced in August last year.

Production of commercial meat for the eight-month period, January-August this year, was 2 percent above the production for the same period last year.

REPORT - WHEAT VARIETIES

Based upon surveys conducted by the Bureau of Plant Industry in cooperation with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, 54.4 percent of North Carolina's 1949 wheat acreage was planted with Redhart variety seed. Forward, Corola, Hardired, and Fulcaster were the next most popular varieties accounting for 7.2, 7.1, 5.7 and 5.6 percent of the 1949 acreage, respectively. The development of the improved Atlas varieties and the increased availability of seed of these varieties will result in a considerable shift in the importance of wheat varieties planted during the coming years. The table at right shows the percentage of the total wheat area occupied by different varieties of wheat grown in North Carolina at five year intervals since 1919.

NORTH CAROLINA LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

TYPE	AUGUST				JANUARY - AUGUST TOTAL			
	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT		NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT	
	1949 a/	1950	1949 a/	1950	1949 a/	1950	1949 a/	1950
	THOUS. HEAD		THOUS. LBS.		THOUS. HEAD		THOUS. LBS.	
CATTLE...	7.5	8.3	6,198	6,667	50.6	53.4	41,303	43,717
CALVES...	5.7	5.0	926	976	53.9	39.8	8,756	6,650
SHEEP & LAMBS...	.4	.3	31	27	1.9	1.6	159	136
HOGS.....	27.0	31.0	5,645	7,118	210.0	240.0	46,669	52,518

a/ Revised

The supply of cotton for the 1950-51 season, which began August 1, is expected to be 16.8 million bales, a fifth less than last season.

ESTIMATED PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL WHEAT AREA OCCUPIED BY THE VARIETIES OF WHEAT GROWN IN NORTH CAROLINA AT 5-YEAR INTERVALS SINCE 1919, AND THE ACREAGE IN 1944 AND 1949 1/

CLASS AND VARIETY	PERCENTAGE							ACREAGE	
	1919	1924	1929	1934	1939	1944	1949	1944	1949
SOFT RED WINTER:									
REDHART.....	-	-	0.7	11.0	28.9	54.6	54.4	334,711	278,366
FORWARD.....	-	-	-	1.6	5.0	5.3	7.2	32,915	36,608
CARALA.....	-	-	-	-	-	1.2	7.1	7,247	36,324
HARDIRED.....	-	-	-	-	-	1.7	5.7	10,730	29,359
FULCASTER.....	32.2	39.6	33.9	21.7	17.7	5.2	5.6	32,149	28,587
PURPLESTRAW.....	13.9	10.9	13.4	16.5	13.6	6.4	5.2	39,088	26,412
LEAP.....	24.7	18.0	23.4	28.1	17.4	10.8	5.0	66,023	25,732
THORNE.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.4	-	7,347
V.F.I. 131.....	-	-	.4	.9	.3	.5	.6	3,010	3,090
RICE.....	1.2	2.2	.3	1.2	1.0	.4	.6	2,541	2,797
LEAPLAND.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	.4	-	2,228
ATLAS 50.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	.4	-	1,841
CURRELL.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	.3	-	1,664
ATLAS 66.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	.3	-	1,535
FLINT.....	5.3	4.7	5.3	9.3	5.4	5.4	.2	32,943	1,128
FULTZ.....	3.0	4.6	5.2	2.7	2.0	1.1	.1	6,551	636
OAKLEY.....	.2	.5	.1	-	.1	.4	-	2,531	-
FULTZ-MEDITERRANEAN	1.2	4.3	.4	.1	.5	.4	-	2,289	-
NITTANY.....	-	-	-	-	.2	.1	-	645	-
DIEHL-MEDITERRANEAN	-	-	-	-	.1	.1	-	504	-
POOLE.....	(*)	.1	.2	.1	1.3	.1	-	319	-
WHITE:									
GREESON.....	.8	3.3	2.8	3.3	2.4	2.2	.5	13,296	2,452
OTHERS & NOT REPORTED	17.5	11.8	13.9	3.5	4.2	4.1	5.0	25,508	25,894
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	613,000	512,000

1/ Data based upon surveys conducted by the Bureau of Plant Industry in cooperation with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

* Less than 0.1% reported.